

Message Text

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TAGS: ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD/NEA: REVISED MANDATE FOR STUDY GROUP
ON THE LONG TERM ROLE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY (NELT)

REFS: (A) NE/M(64)3, (B) NE(74)4

1. SUMMARY. AT JANUARY 29 MEETING OF NELT, SECRETARIAT SUBMITTED PROPOSAL FOR NEW MANDATE, ON WHICH MEMBER-COUNTRY COMMENTS ARE REQUESTED SOONEST. REVISED DRAFT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO APRIL MEETING OF NEA STEERING COMMITTEE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ORIGINAL MANDATE WAS APPROVED IN 1964, AND CAME UP FOR REVIEW, TOGETHER WITH THE MANDATES OF ALL OTHER WORKING GROUPS, OVER THE PERIOD 1972/1973. FOR NELT, HOWEVER, THE REVIEW WAS DELAYED UNTIL THE OUTCOME OF THE OECD LONG TERM ENERGY ASSESSMENT COULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT (REF B, PARA 6). NELT HAS NOW PROPOSED THAT ITS MANDATE BE REVIEWED IN APRIL, ON THE BASIS OF THE FOLLOWING TEXT (CHANGES ARE NOTED UNCLASSIFIED

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APPROPRIATELY).

3. (I) TO EVALUATE RESERVES OF NUCLEAR RAW MATERIALS (URANIUM AND THORIUM) AT THE DISPOSAL OF (WORD "EUROPEAN" SUPPRESSED) MEMBER COUNTRIES IN VARIOUS RANGES OF COST; (NEW) AND TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUCH RESERVES;

(II) TO EVALUATE POSSIBLE ENERGY DEMANDS OVER A PERIOD OF TIME AS FAR AS THE STUDY GROUP COULD JUDGE TO BE MEANINGFUL, AND THE FRACTION WHICH WILL BE ALLOCATED TO NUCLEAR ENERGY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS INVOLVED;

(III) TO REVIEW THE POSSIBLE CHARACTERISTICS OF VARIOUS REACTOR SYSTEMS IN THE LIGHT OF (I) AND (II). THIS WOULD INCLUDE ESTIMATES OF POSSIBLE TIMETABLES AND SCALES OF INTRODUCTION OF BREEDER TECHNOLOGY, AND AN APPRAISAL OF THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THERE WOULD BE A NEED TO EMPHASIZE THE FUEL CONSERVATION CHARACTERISTICS OF ADVANCED ("ADVANCED" REPLACES "PRE-BREEDER") REACTORS OF VARIOUS KINDS;

(IV) (NEW) TO REVIEW RELEVANT ASPECTS OF THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLES WITH A VIEW TO HELPING AVOID POSSIBLE DELAYS IN THE CLOSING OF THESE FUEL CYCLES.

4. MEMBERS WERE UNHAPPY ON TWO COUNTS WITH THE WORDING OF THE ADDITION TO PARA (I), BECAUSE (A) NELT'S ROLE IS CONFINED TO STUDY, AND (B) THE WORD "PROMOTE" HAD INAPPROPRIATE CONNOTATIONS. THERE WAS ALSO UNHAPPINESS WITH THE PHRASE "HELPING TO AVOID POSSIBLE DELAYS" IN PARA (IV) AS, APART FROM THE HEAVINESS OF THE LANGUAGE, THERE WAS ONCE AGAIN A SUGGESTION OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES NOT IN LINE WITH NELT'S FUNCTION.

5. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARIAT, THE US REP PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING REPLACEMENT WORDING FOR THE PARAGRAPH IN QUESTION:

(I) "...AND TO EXAMINE THE MANNER IN WHICH SUCH RESERVES MIGHT BE DEVELOPED TO THE BENEFIT OF MEMBER-COUNTRIES",
(IV) "...EXAMINING METHODS FOR AVOIDING DELAYS IN THE CLOSING OF THESE FUEL CYCLES".

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6. THE ABOVE CHANGES, TOGETHER WITH ANY OTHERS THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO SUGGEST OR MODIFY WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN REVISING THE DRAFT PROPOSAL. DEADLINE FOR REPLIES: MARCH 1, 1976.
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